



# BRIDGEWATER

## Plymouth County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Chartered in 1656, the Town of Bridgewater historically flourished as an industrial and agricultural center within Southeastern Massachusetts. The raising of livestock and crop cultivation on farms comprising several hundred acres were common in the outlying areas of the community. As early as the 18th century, foundries were operating along the northern periphery of the downtown where iron forgings for the Revolutionary and Civil Wars were produced. A century later, shoe, nail and brick manufacturing emerged in the area, employing hundreds of former agricultural workers from nearby farms or immigrants from distant lands.

The historic character of the community is largely preserved in the Federal, Italianate and Greek revival commercial and civic structures surrounding the central common. Landscaping on the common and elsewhere in the downtown is meticulously maintained by the Bridgewater Improvement Association, a non-profit organization devoted to the beautification of the community. The downtown remains a vital center of community life where such activities as autumn and Christmas holiday festivals are conducted each year.

Bridgewater today is a growing community of over 20,000. Its central location at the interchange of Route 24 and Interstate 495 provides convenient access to Boston, Providence and Cape Cod. The town also carries the distinction of hosting the oldest and largest state college and correctional institution in Massachusetts.

This rich history and diversity of activities has made Bridgewater an attractive place to residents and businesses alike.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by East Bridgewater and West Bridgewater on the north, Halifax on the east, Middleborough on the south, and Raynham on the west. Bridgewater is 8 miles south of Brockton; 27 miles south of Boston; 29 miles northeast of Providence, Rhode Island; and 210 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 28.23 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 27.49 sq. miles

**Population:** 21,249

**Density:** 773 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Brockton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....26.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.5"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Bridgewater, Taunton, Whitman

## Regional Planning Agency

Old Colony

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Brockton



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 697-3700

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1656

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	10,577		
Democrats	2,782	26.3	%
Republicans	1,486	14.0	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	6,309	59.6	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Bridgewater town, Plymouth County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	25,185	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	25,185	100.0
Male.....	13,233	52.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	693	2.8
Female.....	11,952	47.5	Mexican.....	72	0.3
Under 5 years.....	1,559	6.2	Puerto Rican.....	325	1.3
5 to 9 years.....	1,687	6.7	Cuban.....	16	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,606	6.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	280	1.1
15 to 19 years.....	2,173	8.6	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	24,492	97.2
20 to 24 years.....	2,446	9.7	White alone.....	21,775	86.5
25 to 34 years.....	3,750	14.9	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	4,543	18.0	Total population.....	25,185	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	3,410	13.5	In households.....	21,146	84.0
55 to 59 years.....	1,128	4.5	Householder.....	7,526	29.9
60 to 64 years.....	715	2.8	Spouse.....	4,627	18.4
65 to 74 years.....	1,176	4.7	Child.....	7,210	28.6
75 to 84 years.....	769	3.1	Own child under 18 years.....	5,431	21.6
85 years and over.....	223	0.9	Other relatives.....	851	3.4
Median age (years).....	33.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	277	1.1
18 years and over.....	19,420	77.1	Nonrelatives.....	932	3.7
Male.....	10,257	40.7	Unmarried partner.....	362	1.4
Female.....	9,163	36.4	In group quarters.....	4,099	16.0
21 years and over.....	17,493	69.5	Institutionalized population.....	2,292	9.1
62 years and over.....	2,569	10.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	1,747	6.9
65 years and over.....	2,168	8.6	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	896	3.6	Total households.....	7,526	100.0
Female.....	1,272	5.1	Family households (families).....	5,587	74.2
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	2,905	38.6
One race.....	24,903	98.9	Married-couple family.....	4,627	61.5
White.....	21,982	87.3	With own children under 18 years.....	2,437	32.4
Black or African American.....	1,017	4.0	Female householder, no husband present.....	713	9.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	59	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	366	4.9
Asian.....	271	1.1	Nonfamily households.....	1,939	25.8
Asian Indian.....	67	0.3	Householder living alone.....	1,474	19.6
Chinese.....	82	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	577	7.7
Filipino.....	15	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	3,097	41.2
Japanese.....	42	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,570	20.9
Korean.....	21	0.1	Average household size.....	2.81	(X)
Vietnamese.....	14	0.1	Average family size.....	3.27	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	30	0.1	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	5	-	Total housing units.....	7,652	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	7,526	98.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	126	1.6
Samoa.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	3	-	occasional use.....	13	0.2
Some other race.....	1,569	6.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	282	1.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.7	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	7,526	100.0
White.....	22,214	88.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	5,611	74.6
Black or African American.....	1,137	4.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,915	25.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	140	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.05	(X)
Asian.....	332	1.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.10	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	7	-			
Some other race.....	1,662	6.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 166

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 5

Federal (Section 8): 69



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Bridgewater is situated in the Greater Brockton Area, which is strategically located between State Route 128 and Interstate 495, the inner and outer loops around Boston. State Routes 3, 24, and 28 provide easy access to the air, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

### Major Highways

Principal highways include the Fall River Expressway (State Route 24); State Routes 18, 28, and 104; and Interstate Route 495, the outer belt around the Boston area.

### Rail

Commuter rail service to South Station, Boston, will be available in 1996-97 on the Middleborough Line from Bridgewater. Conrail provides freight rail service to Bridgewater. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

### Bus

Bridgewater is a member of the Brockton Area Transit Authority, which provides Dial-A-Bat paratransit service to the elderly and disabled. Bay State Commuter Lines (Interstate) provides frequent commuter service to Boston, as well as limited additional trips daily.

### Other

The Mansfield Municipal airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 3,496'x 75' asphalt runway and a 2,200'x 100' turf runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Bridgewater Nursing Home

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.